

NEWSLETTER

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This newsheet is printed not only for Ciset members but for all those interested in the cause of the East Timorese people.

PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesday, December 7 marks the anniversary of the 1975 Indonesian invasion of East Timor. Since then no progress towards a negotiated settlement has been achieved. Both Roman Catholic and refugee sources indicate that the Indonesian military is continuing a new large scale offensive beginning in August.

From the 5th - 9th December, Ciset along with other Timor support groups will be participating in activities in the City Square (Swanston St, Melbourne) which includes information sheets and photographic exhibitions.

As part of our distinctive faith commitment to the suffering East Timorese people, and as an expression of our unity with them in their neediness before God, Ciset is organising a prayer service. This begins at 5:30 pm on the Wednesday evening (7th) with some readings in the City Square to mark a call to prayer. The gathering will then process to St Paul's Cathedral for a half hour service to begin at 5:45.

All concerned Ciset members are warmly invited to participate in this service and in the weeks activities.

MONSIGNOR LOPES IN THE PACIFIC

After a successful visit to Australia, and before travelling to New York Monsignor Costa Lopes visited several Pacific nations including Fiji, the Solomons, Western Samoa and New Guinea.

Whilst the impact of the visit of any figure is hard to ascertain, reports from at least two countries indicate the importance of such contacts.

In New Guinea the Monsignor visited the seminary and university and met with some government officials. With the troubles on the Eastern borders, the interest of both sets of students was considered high. As always the main problem with the East Timor situation seems to be lack of information rather than lack of concern.